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TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

FABIAN SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH, 1909.

PRESENTED TO AND ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
SOCIETY ON 14TH MAY, 1909.

Also the Rules of the Society.

PUBLISHED BY
THE FABIAN SOCIETY, 3 CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND,
LONDON, W.C.

JUNE, 1909.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1909—10.

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DR. ETHEL BENTHAM.
HUBERT BLAND.
F. LAWSON DODD.
R. C. K. ENSOR.
L. HADEN GUEST.
REV. STEWART D. HEADLAM.
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MRS. BERNARD SHAW.
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MRS. H. G. WELLS.

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LONDON AND COUNTY BANK.

Office :

3 CLEMENT'S INN, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.

The Fabian Society.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

TWENTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH, 1909.

ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL MEETING ON 14TH MAY, 1909.

POLITICAL, like commercial, growth does not proceed with a uniform steadiness of advance; it has its periods of activity and depression. The success of the Labor Party at the General Election in 1906 was the main factor in arousing universal interest in Socialism, and afforded a quite exceptional opportunity for propaganda; but at present popular attention appears to have turned to other topics, and the recruiting of Socialist forces begins to flag. We must therefore endeavour by educating our members, elaborating our theories and consolidating our forces, to prepare ourselves in every possible way for the opportunity presented by the next period of advance.

THE TAUNTON ELECTION.

At the date of our last report the response of the members to the circular inviting subscriptions to a guarantee fund for the purpose of promoting the election of Fabians to Parliament was being awaited. The circular was sent round twice, and in the end the sum of £2,637 was promised, payable in instalments over five years.

In the middle of February the Committee decided that the pending bye-election at Taunton offered a favorable opportunity for Fabian intervention. It was not pretended that there was any probability that the seat would be won at the first attempt, but the only other candidate in the field, the Hon. W. Peel, was a strong opponent even of the moderate instalments of Socialism which are found in the program of the London County Council Progressives,

and the constituency was in a district where the forces of Socialism and Labor had not yet been proved. Frank Smith, L.C.C., was willing to undertake the short and sharp campaign which the circumstances required, and he proved to be an excellent candidate for the place. It was therefore decided to put him forward under the auspices of the Labor Party, whose Executive entertained the proposal with cordiality, sent their leading men as speakers, and appointed their election agent to take charge.

The contest evoked the greatest interest in the locality, and brought home to the people of the district the whole range of the new ideas which are beginning to dominate politics. The campaign was fought on Socialism from the first day to the last, and every vote polled by our candidate was given by an elector who was thoroughly aware that he was voting for Socialism.

The result was :

Hon. W. PEEL (C)	1,976
Frank Smith (Lab.)	1,085
Majority ...			891

The total cost of the election was £315 14s. 10d. The Labor Party sent their regular contribution (25 per cent. of the Returning Officer's fee) of £14 2s. 6d., and £26 19s. 8d. was received as subscriptions sent otherwise than through the Fabian Society. The cost to us was, therefore, £274 12s. 8d. This was met by a call of one year's quota from the guarantors of the Parliamentary Fund. This realized £422 up to March 31st, when a balance of over £140 was in hand, the bulk of which has been transferred to a deposit account in the names of the trustees of the Fund. Since the close of the financial year a further amount has been received.

Frank Smith was subsequently Labor candidate at the bye-election at Croydon, this time on behalf of the I.L.P. He polled 886 votes, a heavy reduction on the Labor poll of 1906.

MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

Seventeen meetings of the Society have been held during the year, four less than last year, when there were two special and one additional lecture and one members' meeting called by requisition. But four of this year's meetings were held in St. James's Hall, and were, therefore, on an unusually large scale. Three of these formed a series of propaganda meetings, specially designed to attract audiences from the outside. In each case the time was occupied by an address from the chair and by two other speakers. Members were admitted free and tickets were sold to others. By this method the expenses of the hall and of advertising were more than covered. The fourth of the St. James's Hall lectures was called on the publication of the Reports of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws to hear an address by Sidney Webb on "The Remedy for Unemployment." In this case every seat was paid for. A crowded audience listened to a lecture of quite exceptional importance, and a substantial profit was realized.

The Autumn lectures at Essex Hall consisted of a series of six, giving an exposition of the chief points in the Basis of the Society, by members of the Executive Committee. These meetings were confined to persons connected with the Society, and in most cases were well attended.

With the exception of Mr. Theodore Morison, who lectured on India, and Mr. W. Watson Rutherford, M.P., who gave an address on Tory Democracy, all the speakers and lecturers of the year have been members of the Society.

The following is a complete list of the meetings :

AT ESSEX HALL.

April	10.	"The Collectivism of the Indian Government" ...	THEODORE MORISON
April	24.	"The Woman Question"	Miss M. MURBY
May	8.	"The Faith I Hold"	Sir SYDNEY OLIVIER
June	19.	"Tory Democracy"	W. WATSON RUTHERFORD, M.P.
Feb.	12.	"A Workable Scheme for Railway Nationalization" ...	A. EMIL DAVIES

EXPOSITION OF THE FABIAN BASIS.

Oct.	9.	"The Fabian Society consists of Socialists" and works for "the spread of Socialism" ...	BERNARD SHAW
Oct.	23.	And for "The Emancipation of Land from Individual and Class Ownership" ...	Rev. STEWART D. HEADLAM
Nov.	13.	And of "Industrial Capital"	EDWARD R. PEASE
Nov.	27.	Together with "Industrial Inventions"	S. G. HOBSON
Dec.	11.	"Without Compensation"	SIDNEY WEBB
Dec.	18.	And without "Interference with Personal Liberty" ...	R. C. K. ENSOR

AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

(Propaganda Series.)

Jan.	22.	"The Politics of Socialism"	SIDNEY WEBB, R. C. K. ENSOR, Ald. WM. SANDERS
Feb.	26.	"Socialism and the Churches"	Rev. S. D. HEADLAM, Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL, Rev. CONRAD NOEL
March	19.	"Socialism and Race Welfare"	HUBERT BLAND, Dr. ETHEL BENTHAM, F. LAWSON DODD

March	5.	"The Remedy for Unemployment"	BERNARD SHAW, SIDNEY WEBB
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BUSINESS MEETINGS AT ESSEX HALL.

May	22.	Annual Meeting.	
Jan.	8.	Business Meeting. (Amendments to the Rules, consideration of the Constitution, etc.)	

NEW SOCIETIES.

The formation of Fabian Societies outside London has gone on at about the same pace as last year. New societies have been formed at Bristol, Edinburgh, Huddersfield, Ilford, Leicester, Manchester

University, Marlborough, Reading, Walsall and York ; the Leeds Society has been revived ; the East Middlesex Group has become the Palmers Green and District Fabian Society ; and a group has been established at Harrow. On the other hand, the society in Canterbury has become extinct and the Newcastle Group is in a state of suspension. Deducting these two, the number of provincial societies and groups at the end of March last was thirty-nine, of which six are in connection with universities. The number last year was twenty-seven, of which five were university societies.

LONDON LOCAL GROUPS.

In London new groups have been started at Sidcup and South-wark. The Northern Heights has been dissolved and the Lyceum Club Group has suspended operations for the present. The Kensington and District Group organized a course of Suburban Lectures at the Chelsea Town Hall, arranged a debate on Unemployment at the Kensington Town Hall, and held a series of other gatherings. The Lewisham Group held a large meeting at New Cross addressed by G. Bernard Shaw, and a course of Suburban Lectures at Ladywell, besides other meetings. The Clapham Fabian Society ran a series of public meetings. The Central District Group held debates with other organizations besides holding meetings at Prince Henry's Room and at the Fabian Offices. The Marylebone and Paddington Group held a Suburban Course as well as other lectures. The St. Pancras Group and Forest Gate Group also organized Suburban Courses, and arranged meetings on various subjects. The Hampstead Group held several gatherings, which were addressed by the Rev. Percy Dearmer and others.

SUBJECT GROUPS.

The activities of the Subject Groups have been fairly numerous. The Education Group has held a series of well attended meetings at Clifford's Inn, at which lectures on educational subjects were given by Professor Patrick Geddes, Professor M. E. Sadler, Reginald Bray, L.C.C., and others. The Local Government Group has met frequently and discussed a number of problems preparatory to the drawing up of a detailed statement of policy with regard to several important subjects relating to local government. It has also begun a thorough study of the Reports of the Poor Law Commission. The Women's Group has increased in membership from 53 twelve months ago to 210. The group has held a number of meetings, at which the questions of the relationship of women to local government and the conditions of economic independence of women under Socialism were considered. The group possesses a banner designed by Miss May Morris and worked by members of the group. It was carried in several women suffrage demonstrations during the year.

The Fabian Nursery has grown considerably during the year. It has held periodical meetings at the Fabian Offices. As a result of the lectures and discussions "the standard of speaking has become noticeably higher." The Biology Group has continued its course of

lectures and discussions on the various aspects of the relation of biological science to social progress.

Further particulars of the local societies and groups will be found on pp. 20-23.

CONFERENCES OF GROUPS AND LOCAL SOCIETIES.

The annual conference of the Executive Committee with delegates from the local Fabian societies and London groups instituted in 1907, was held this year on July 11th at University Hall, Gordon Square, and was attended by members of the Executive and two delegates from twelve London societies and groups, six subject groups, three University societies and fourteen local societies—seventy-three persons in all. The Parliamentary fund, Fabian Parliamentary candidatures, and the political policy of the Society were the chief matters discussed. A conference of members of the Liverpool, Burnley, Sheffield, Darwen, Huddersfield, Leeds and Manchester Fabian Societies was held at Manchester on Nov. 21st. Wm. Sanders was present on behalf of the Executive. The number of persons present was eighty-five. Papers were read on the "Training of Propagandists" and on the "Work of a Provincial Fabian Society," followed by discussion. It was decided to hold a similar conference yearly.

SUBURBAN LECTURES.

Twenty courses of four lectures each, under the Suburban Scheme, were given between the beginning of October and the end of March by Wm. Sanders, Harry Snell, and, in one instance, by H. H. Schloesser, at Lewisham, Chelsea, Croydon, St. Pancras, Forest Gate, Paddington, Wallington, Wood Green, Ilford, Tunbridge Wells, Harrow, Hornsey, Grays, Richmond, Maldon, South Norwood, Thornton Heath, Finchley, Westminster, and Kingston. The number of courses shows an increase of eight as compared with last year, and more applications for them were made than could be granted. Nine of the courses were organized by local Fabian societies and groups. The total net cost of the lectures amounted to £170.

PROVINCIAL LECTURES.

In order to assist the development of Fabian societies in the provinces and to widen the area of Fabian propaganda, courses of lectures similar to those given under the Suburban Courses were offered to local Fabian societies and other Socialist and Labor organizations. Holbrook Jackson, Clifford D. Sharp, H. H. Schloesser, and Wm. Sanders gave thirty-two courses, in nearly all cases of four lectures each, at Letchworth, Hitchin, Liverpool (two courses), Birkenhead, New Ferry, Carnarvon, Llandudno, Festiniog, St. Helens, Bootle, Halifax, Manchester, York, Sheffield, Hull, Driffield, Brighton, Glasgow, Perth, Edinburgh, Bath, Yeovil, Radstock, Wakefield, Coventry, Walsall, Leeds, Marlborough, Midhurst, Nottingham, and Leicester. Thirteen of the courses were held under

the auspices of local Fabian societies. The audiences varied from about five hundred at Nottingham to about fifty at Midhurst. The net cost to the Society of the thirty-two courses was £286. In addition to these courses, Wm. Sanders gave ten lectures in Glasgow and suburbs, Dumfries, and Dunfermline, under the auspices of the Glasgow Fabian Society, which met all the expenses.

G. Bernard Shaw took part in the work of provincial propaganda by addressing five big meetings at Liverpool, York, Edinburgh, Hull, and Portsmouth. The first four were organized by the local Fabian societies, and were in every instance successful financially and otherwise.

OTHER LECTURES.

A considerable number of lectures have been given to Independent Labor Party branches, literary and debating societies, and other bodies, by members of the Society on the lecture list. Many of these were arranged through the Office, but societies are now making engagements direct with our members who have become known to them as lecturers. Among the hundred and fifty lectures and addresses given by the Organizing Secretary during the past year, three were held under the auspices of the German Social Democratic Party, on "The Socialist Movement in England," at Nuremberg-Fürth, Bamberg, and Hof.

FABIAN SUMMER SCHOOL.

This enterprise at Pen-yr-allt, Llanbedr, North Wales, has continued to flourish.

The Education Group organized a Conference there at Easter, when over forty members and others took part, and lectures were given on various subjects bearing on education; at Christmas a small house-party was arranged.

The Summer Session extended from 25th July to 14th September, and so great was the demand for accommodation that the Committee had to take two extra houses for the season. Social Reformers from the Continent and America visited the School, which is becoming quite international in its scope.

Single lectures and courses were given by many well-known publicists, and Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb communicated the ideas embodied later in the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission.

The School may now be considered an established, if indirect, branch of the Society's activities.

PUBLICATIONS.

Though the total receipts from the sale of literature have risen by fifty per cent., the sales of ordinary Tracts for the year declined. This is partly accounted for by the fact that last year between £70 and £80 was received for the new edition of Tract No. 82, "The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906."

Another factor is the exceptionally varied character of our operations: we have reprinted a blue-book, issued an edition of

poems, republished a volume by Bernard Shaw, brought out a cheap edition of Fabian Essays, published a dialogue on rates, prepared an analysis of our Tracts, and issued six Tracts in our regular series, four in English and two in Welsh.

The most important of these undertakings, from every point of view, was the reprint of the Minority Report of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws, which was kindly arranged for us by Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb, who supplied the plates of their own edition, and enabled us to issue a paper edition to our members and their friends in two parts at 2s. for the volume entitled "Break up the Poor Law and Abolish the Workhouse," and 1s. for "The Remedy for Unemployment." We have sold and paid for 2,000 copies of each, and a small balance of profit has been realized. Of the remaining 1,000 some had been sold, and final arrangements at the close of the year had not been made.

The 6d. reprint of Fabian Essays was issued by the Walter Scott Publishing Company in December. It included a new preface by Bernard Shaw, and a cover designed by A. E. R. Gill, and of the edition of 10,000 five-sixths were sold in four months. The Fifield Series was continued by Vol. V., "The Commonsense of Municipal Trading," by Bernard Shaw, which he kindly allowed us to publish in this series. Two other volumes, No. VI., "Socialism and National Minimum," and No. VII., "Wastage of Child Life," were completed for the press during the year, but were not published till after its close. A new undertaking for us was the issue through Mr. Fifield of a collection of poems by E. Nesbit (Mrs. Hubert Bland) entitled "Ballads and Lyrics of Socialism," which she was good enough to place at our disposal. They form an attractive book, either in the paper edition at 6d. or in boards at 1s., and already enough have been sold to justify the experiment.

Six new penny Tracts have been issued during the year, one more than last year, when five Tracts and one Leaflet were published. The Tracts are :

- No. 138. "Municipal Trading."
- No. 139. "Socialism and the Churches." By the Rev. JOHN CLIFFORD.
- No. 140. "Child Labor under Capitalism." By Mrs. HYLTON DALE.
- No. 141. "Socialism and the Churches." In Welsh.
- No. 142. "Rent and Value."
- No. 143. "Sosialaeth Yng Ngoleuni'r Beibl."

It will be noted that two of these, both dealing with Christian Socialism, are in Welsh, and we anticipate for them a quiet and steady sale for some time to come.

Much time was spent in the preparation and issue of a "Tract Index and Catalogue Raisonné," an abstract of all the Tracts in print, from No. 1 to No. 139, with an index of their contents and a list of the titles of all numbered Tracts issued. This is on sale for 3d.

In the format of "This Misery of Boots," we have published another special Tract, a dialogue by F. W. Hayes, entitled "Those Wretched Rates!"

The number of Tracts and Leaflets, apart from the reprints in the Fabian Socialist Series, sold and distributed during recent years is as follows :

Year ending March	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905
Tracts ...	89,229	149,594	82,508	56,029	20,528
Leaflets ...	31,760	102,160	63,360	22,060	29,010
TOTALS ...	120,989	251,754	145,868	78,089	49,538
	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts ...	260	476	244	140	89
Cost of Printing	269	518	329	214	162

Our list of Tracts in the regular series now stands as follows :

	6d.	2d.	1d.	Questions	Leaflets	Total
Tracts of previous years	1	1	53	3	16	74
„ 1908-9 ...	0	0	6	0	0	6
	1	1	59	3	16	80

TABLE OF TRACTS PRINTED AND ISSUED DURING YEAR 1908-1909.

Price.	Stock 1 April, '08.	Printed during year.	Total.	Stock 31 Mar., 1909.	Distributed during year.	Cost of Printing, Binding, etc., during year.	Proceeds of Sales (estimd.)	Estimd. Sale Value of pre- sent stock.
1s.	503	nil	503	470	33	£ nil	£ 1	£ 3
6d.	817	nil	817	225	592	nil	6	1
3d.	2,208	nil	2,208	973	1,235	nil	10	6
2d.	2,041	nil	2,041	1,169	872	nil	4	6
1d.	141,647	108,144	249,791	163,304	86,497	260	231	176
Leaflets.	53,340	24,450	77,790	46,030	31,760	9	9	8
Totals	200,556	132,594	333,150	212,171	120,989	£269	£261	£200
1907-8	178,320	273,990	452,310	200,556	251,754	£518	£476	£210

We have to thank H. M. Hart, who has once more taken regular charge of one of our literature stalls, and also Miss Tiffen, who has frequently helped in this work. A large number of members have given valued assistance as literature sellers and stewards at our St. James's Hall meetings. Charles E. Ball has again given a great amount of time to assisting in the office work, and it is hoped that other members will follow his example in this respect. Now that we have more available space, much routine work could be conveniently done by volunteers, which otherwise has to be paid for.

BOOK BOXES.

The expansion in the use of our political circulating library has not continued to the extent we anticipated a year ago. In the Spring an appeal was made to members and friends for subscriptions for the purchase of new boxes and books, and about twenty new boxes, with their equipment of books, have been procured. In addition a large number of new books has been purchased to replace those which are out of date. In all about £145 has been spent on books for boxes and for the Members' Bookshelf, and a balance of £34 has been carried forward.

We do not anticipate that there will be any difficulty in finding plenty of subscribers for our boxes, though during the latter part of the year under review the number of unused boxes has been greater than for a long time past. A small expenditure of time will suffice to send notices to trade union branches, trade councils, and other bodies, many of which will certainly apply for boxes. But owing to special circumstances, the removal of the Office, and the sale of the Minority Report, we have not been able to undertake any work not absolutely indispensable.

The library now consists of about 220 boxes and over 6,000 volumes.

The following is a classification of the subscribers for this and previous years :

	Year ending	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904
I. L. P. Branches	45	70	33	31	15	18
Local Fabian Societies *	...	11	12				
Other Socialist Bodies	...	33	34	30	13	14	12
Co-operative Societies	...	24	35	23	36	41	40
Trade Unions	...	15	21	24	21	19	18
Trades Councils	...	2	9	11	8	19	23
Ruskin College Classes	...	4	4	11	11	7	8
Miscellaneous	...	27	18	23	38	37	25
		<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
		161	203	155	158	152	144

* These were included in other Socialist Societies previous to 1908.

THE MEMBERS' BOOKSHELF.

Advantage was taken of the substantial fund contributed for book boxes to carry out a long desired plan of providing a lending library for the members and associates of the Society. It was decided to obtain a larger number of books than were at once needed for book boxes, and to keep in the Office for the use of members a selection of works, both new and old, to be lent to individuals as required. Simple rules were prepared, providing that borrowers should repay any cost of carriage incurred, and that books be taken out one at a time and returned within a month. This plan has been much valued by the members. Since the issue of the Select Catalogue in August, when the scheme may be said to have begun full working, an average of 88 books have been borrowed every month, and in all 800 volumes have been taken out. The new Offices will enable a larger library to be available for use in this manner.

STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

The following table indicates the changes in membership during the year :—

		London.	Country.	Provincial Societies.	University Societies.	Abroad.	Total.
Men	...	753	239	350	269	63	1674
Women	...	524	104	64	70	26	788
Total	...	1277	343	414	339	89	2462
1908	...	1085	317	329	205	79	2015
Increase...		192	26	85	134	10	447

The Croydon Society, with 55 members, has been transferred this year from "Provincial Societies" to "London," *i.e.*, members within reach of London for the purposes of evening meetings.

Increase in men members... 18 per cent. ; last year 52 per cent.

Increase in women members 35 per cent. ; last year 78 per cent.

During the year, 665 candidates were elected, a number midway between the 817 of last year and the 455 of the previous period. Just before the year closed, 112 members were struck off for persistent non-payment of subscriptions; the loss by resignation, chiefly of those who had only retained their membership for a year, and by death, was about 106. It may be observed that there is a fairly constant interchange between the categories of connection with the Society, associates and subscribers becoming members, and *vice versa*.

The number of associates is 214, an increase of 51 during the year.

The number of members of Provincial Societies who are not members of the London Society is about 500.

MINOR MATTERS.

NEW OFFICES.—Towards the end of the year an opportunity presented itself for obtaining larger Offices, the need for which had long been felt, at a reasonable rent and in the same building as the old ones. The change, which was effected at the end of February, involves a certain increase of standing expenses and a substantial outlay for new furniture, only a part of which had been incurred at the close of the financial year. But the new board room, which will hold fifty or sixty people, will be suitable for many Group meetings and other gatherings which have hitherto been held in rooms hired for the occasion.

“Parish Councils and Village Life.” This Tract, printed just before the close of the previous year, was sent with a covering letter to 10,000 chairmen of parish councils and meetings and of rural district councils. A number of appreciative letters were received, and no doubt the information was of value to many who did not trouble to send acknowledgments of it.

“New Worlds for Old.” By the generosity of a member resident in Burmah, we were enabled to send copies of Mr. Wells’s most attractive exposition of Socialism to 100 libraries, mostly of a semi-public character, which gave evidence that they would appreciate the gift, and had not sufficient funds to buy freely whatever they required.

THE YEAR’S FINANCE.

The total sum contributed by our members and friends for the purposes of the Society during the year was £1,920; and in this total £159 given for Book Boxes is not included, nor is the sum of £75 provided for an experiment in school meals conducted by Dr. Haden Guest, nor £337 lent through the Society to the Bail Fund for the old Russian Revolutionist, Nicholas Tchaykovsky, nor £20 for gifts of “New Worlds for Old.”

Except in “special subscriptions”—a particularly variable class, which showed a rise of £220 last year, and has fallen again by nearly the same amount—these contributions are not unsatisfactory, since last year many members gave more than the average in response to the special appeal sent out in the summer of 1907.

The receipts and expenditure connected with the ordinary Tracts show a heavy decline, partly to be accounted for by the large editions of “The Workmen’s Compensation Act” sold last year, and partly by the unusual number of other publications which we have issued. Last year we expended net about £154 in payments to Mr. Fifield for our Fabian Socialist Series, published by him on our behalf; this year he has repaid us £280, and our own sales (including, however, the sixpenny edition of “Fabian Essays”) are estimated to be about £45, whilst we have paid him, on account of new publications, binding, etc., the sum of £135. The result of these transactions is a substantial profit for the year.

The net loss on printing Tracts was only £9, the smallest for many years. It must be recollected that some 15,000 Tracts have

been sent out to members and others with *Fabian News*, the cost of which is borne by this account.

Our meetings at St. James's Hall showed a profit of £47; but the annual Soirée at Portman Rooms resulted in a small deficit.

On lecturing in the suburbs and provinces, and on organizing, we have expended out of income the large sum of £373, an increase of £246 over last year.

In the coming year our standing charges for the larger offices and larger meeting hall will be heavier than before, and members must be prepared to increase their subscriptions whenever possible, if they desire the work of the Society to be maintained at its present standard of efficiency.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

At the election in April, 1908, seventeen out of the nineteen old members who offered themselves were re-elected, together with four new candidates. During their year of office Messrs. H. G. Wells and S. G. Hobson resigned because they were no longer in agreement with the policy of the Society, and the Rev. R. J. Campbell through inability to attend the meetings. Owing to the date of Mr. Hobson's resignation a bye-election to fill these vacancies was not required. This report is, therefore, submitted by the remaining eighteen members.

H. GRANVILLE BARKER.
HUBERT BLAND.
F. LAWSON DODD.
R. C. K. ENSOR.
L. HADEN GUEST.
STEWART D. HEADLAM.
B. L. HUTCHINS.
AYLMER MAUDE.
L. G. CHIOZZA MONEY.

MILLICENT B. MURBY.
EDWARD R. PEASE
MAUD REEVES.
W. S. SANDERS.
G. BERNARD SHAW.
CHARLOTTE F. SHAW.
ETHEL SNOWDEN.
SIDNEY WEBB.
CATHERINE WELLS.

Executive Committee, 1908-9.

RULES.

DEFINITIONS.

1.—The words "due notice" shall mean that the notice is received by the General Secretary before the 23rd day of any month for publication in the next issue of *FABIAN NEWS*, or as provided in Rule 8, Clause 2.

2.—A public meeting shall mean a meeting to which non-members are admitted. A private meeting shall mean a meeting confined to members of the Society.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3.—Before the Annual Meeting to be held in May, the Society shall elect by ballot a Treasurer and an Executive Committee of twenty-one members to hold office for one year. Due notice shall be given of all nominations for these offices. Voting papers shall be sent to all members, together with the April number of the *NEWS*, and they shall be returned to the General Office on or before April 20th. Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Society, whose duty it shall be to open the ballot-box, to count the votes, and to certify to the General Secretary before April 23rd, for publication in the *NEWS*, the number of votes polled. The new Executive shall come into office on April 25th. In case of Easter occurring about the dates named, the Executive may alter them, giving due notice thereof; but no alteration shall exceed seven days. In case of a tie, the candidate who has been longest a member of the Society shall be elected. Any vacancies which occur during the year shall be filled by election after due notice, but only in the event of the number of the Committee falling below nineteen. Five members shall be a quorum. Any member absent from four consecutive meetings of the Committee or its standing Sub-Committees without obtaining leave of absence, shall be deemed to have vacated his seat on the Committee or the Sub-Committee.

4.—The Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the Society, appoint the paid officers, prepare and publish tracts, subject to Rule 9, and appoint all delegates to represent the Society. It shall constitute three standing sub-committees to deal with (1) Propaganda; (2) Publishing; and (3) Finance and General Purposes.

COMMITTEES.

5.—Committees for special purposes shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, but notice of such committees (exclusive of those dealing with purely Executive business) shall be published beforehand in the *FABIAN NEWS*, or at private meetings, in order that any member desirous to serve on such committees may have the opportunity of sending in his or her name for consideration by the Executive.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

6.—Resolutions of which due notice has been given shall be placed on the agenda of the first private meeting of the Society after such notice has been published. Resolutions shall not be moved without due notice, except after a vote of urgency has been carried. Business may be taken at a public meeting, but only with the consent of the chairman previously obtained.

7.—Any resolution, not affecting the constitution of the Society, its Rules or its Basis, may be declared urgent by a majority of three-fourths of the members present in a private meeting of not less than twenty-five members, and, if so declared, shall be discussed and voted upon forthwith.

8.—When a requisition signed by not less than twenty-five members is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss any resolution, the Executive Committee shall order the resolution to be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and shall appoint for the meeting the earliest convenient date thereafter.

When a requisition of urgency, signed by not less than fifty members, is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss a specific notice of motion, he shall summon such meeting for a date within fourteen days from the receipt thereof, and shall within seven days notify the same to all members, by circular or otherwise.

TRACTS.

9.—Except in cases of emergency, notice shall be given by the Executive Committee, either in *FABIAN NEWS* or by special circular, of any tracts proposed to be issued in the name of the Society, and every such tract shall be submitted to the members at a private meeting, and shall only be published when adopted by that meeting.

In case of emergency a tract may be adopted at any private meeting upon a vote of urgency.

Tracts bearing the name of the author may be issued by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Society.

MEMBERSHIP.

10.—Every candidate must sign a declaration that he accepts the Basis of the Society, and must make a contribution to the funds before election, the amount to be returned if he is not elected.

The names of all candidates shall be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and candidates shall afterwards be submitted for election, which shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

11.—Members who do not take part in the work of the Society and subscribe to its funds during one year may be removed from the list of members at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

12.—A member may be expelled from the Society by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of not less than fifty members. Due notice of the motion shall be given to the General Secretary; but such notice shall not be valid and shall not be printed in *FABIAN NEWS* without the sanction of the Executive Committee.

SUBSCRIPTION.

13.—Members are expected to subscribe annually to the funds of the Society in accordance with their means.

ASSOCIATES.

14.—Any person may become an Associate by signing a statement that he is in general sympathy with and desirous of promoting the work of the Society.

Associates must pay an annual subscription of at least 10s., and are entitled to attend all the meetings not expressly confined to members, and to receive all the ordinary publications. But they are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Society or to take any other part in the management of its affairs.

GROUPS.

15.—The members resident in or near London shall, for the purpose of local work, be divided by the Executive Committee into Groups according to the localities in which they reside. Each Group shall elect a Secretary, who shall keep a list of the Group members, and shall organize the work of the Group.

The Group Secretary will be removable by a vote of the Group, at a meeting attended by not less than one-third of the Group members, or by a vote of the Society after due notice has been given.

A meeting of any Group may be summoned either by the Group Secretary or by the General Secretary by order of the Executive Committee.

A Group may appoint delegates to any body dealing specially with the affairs of the Group area.

Groups for particular subjects may be formed in accordance with such regulations as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

ANNUAL REPORT.

16.—The Annual Report and Balance Sheet, made up to March 31st, shall be sent to members at least seven days before the Annual Meeting.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND BASIS.

17.—No alteration of, or addition to, the Rules shall be made without due notice; or at any meeting other than the Annual Meeting, except by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of not less than fifty members.

No alteration of, or addition to, the Basis shall be made until it has been adopted, after due notice given, by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at an Annual Meeting, and confirmed by a similar vote at a Special Private Meeting held after an interval of not less than six months.

REFERENDUM.

18.—The Executive Committee may at any time refer any question to the decision of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter.

Any mover of a resolution which, at a meeting of the Society, has been supported by not less than one hundred members may claim a poll of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter. If an amendment is carried, and the original resolution is therefore not put, the mover thereof shall have the right to demand before the next business that the chairman take a count of the members who support the resolution, and if this number is not less than one hundred, the mover may claim a referendum as aforesaid.

BY-LAWS FOR LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETY AND FABIAN GROUP ORGANIZATION.

I.—THE COUNTY OF LONDON.

1. Any ten or more members may, with the approval of the Executive Committee, form themselves into a local group.

2. Every such group shall consist of members of the Society in its area, and such other Fabians as it may elect; it may elect its own associates, provided that associateship of a group shall not, as such, confer the privileges of associateship of the Society.

3. Every local group shall elect a secretary, who shall be the medium of communication between the group and the Executive Committee.

4. Every local secretary shall forward a report to the Executive Committee at least once a quarter.

5. Every such group shall be bound by all resolutions of the parent Society.

6. The Executive Committee, co-operating with existing local groups, shall constantly work for the establishment of local groups in districts where such do not exist.

II.—SPECIAL SUBJECT GROUPS.

The regulations for Special Subject Groups shall be the same as those for local groups in so far as applicable, except that

Special Subject Groups shall elect their own members from amongst the members of the Society.

III.—THE PROVINCES.

A. *Local Fabian Societies.*

1. Local Fabian Societies shall adopt the Fabian Basis, or some Basis which has been sanctioned by the Executive Committee of the parent Society, and all their members shall sign the said Basis.

2. Subject to the above, local Fabian Societies shall enjoy complete autonomy as to the election of their officers, members and associates, the conduct of their business, and the disposal of their funds, and shall not be bound by any resolution of the parent Society.

3. The reports of the local Societies shall be inserted in *FABIAN NEWS*, subject to the exigencies of space and the general control of the editor.

4. Conferences between representatives of the parent Society and the local Fabian Societies shall be held, if possible at regular intervals.

B. *Local Groups.*

1. Where no local Fabian Society exists, the Executive Committee, co-operating as far as possible with Fabian Societies elsewhere, shall endeavor to establish Fabian local groups, and such groups may be formed in any locality on the initiative of any local Fabians.

2. Such groups shall be constituted of any five or more Fabians, and shall have a status similar to that of local groups within the London area.

ending 31st March, 1909.

Cr.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	1908. Deh. Bal.	£	s.	d.
BY EXPENDITURE DURING YEAR, viz.:—							29	14	10½	
Hire of Halls for Lectures, less refunds				55	9	0	80	17	6	
Fabian Essays Purchased	46	0	0				53	2	6	
Printing and Advertising Tracts ...	269	0	4				517	19	3	
Payments to A. C. Fifield	135	7	9				178	11	10	
Minority Report, on account of Cost	220	0	0							
				650	8	1				
Printing FABIAN NEWS				137	11	6	118	19	6	
General Printing				102	16	2	96	2	8	
Grants to Groups for special purposes				23	8	0				
Grants to other bodies:—										
Labor Party Dues, etc.	22	15	10				12	13	8	
International Socialist Bureau Dues	14	0	0				14	0	0	
Sundries	3	19	6				1	6	0	
				40	15	4				
Office Expenses, viz.:—										
Salaries	666	12	0				570	18	0	
Overtime, Typing, etc.	26	9	10				39	11	8	
Furniture for New Office and Removal Expenses	42	18	0				4	14	6	
Rent, Cleaning, Coals, etc.	123	17	0				123	2	3	
Postage and Parcels	209	1	0				172	3	6	
Telephone Subscription	6	10	0				7	10	0	
Printer: Despatching NEWS	23	14	0							
Stationery and Miscellaneous	60	18	8½				57	8	7	
				1,160	0	6½				
Book Boxes and Library:—										
Books and Boxes Purchased	145	6	10				183	11	8½	
Balance Unexpended	34	0	6½							
				179	7	4½				
"New Worlds for Old" Purchased for Distribution and Postage				20	0	0				
Suburban Lectures, less local receipts	170	0	9				120	3	0	
Provincial Lectures	285	19	6							
Organizer's Travelling Expenses	17	3	1				6	13	3	
				473	3	4				
St. James's Hall Meetings: Expenses				81	0	5½	68	19	7½	
Soirée Expenses				45	19	6				
Election Fund:—										
Net Cost of Taunton Bye-election	274	12	8							
Deposited at Bank	140	0	0							
In hand	8	2	4							
				422	15	0				
BALANCE at Credit of Society, 31st March, 1909:—										
Bank Balance	67	16	1							
Sundry Debtors and Stock of Books Purchased	65	15	5½							
	133	11	6½							
Less Sundry Creditors	97	3	10							
				36	7	8½				
				£3,429	2	0				
							77	14	9½	
							£2,535	18	8	

I have examined the above account and compared it with the Books and Vouchers of the Society, and find the same to be correct.

9 Arundel Street, Strand, W.C.
May 20th, 1909.

W. HECTOR THOMSON, (Auditor.
Chartered Accountant.

LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES.

BEDALES.—At Bedales School. Meets once every three weeks in winter for lectures and discussions. Members seven, associates 10. Secretary, M. S. Pease, Bedales, Petersfield.

BRIGHTON.—Has two members of Brighton Town Council on its roll. Held lectures and public meetings, made enquiries into conditions of local employment and Poor Law administration, circulated pamphlets, etc. Members 28. Secretary, H. Milner Black, 16 New Steyne, Brighton.

BRISTOL AND DISTRICT.—Formed October, 1908. Has two members of the Bristol Town Council on its roll. Meets fortnightly. Members 44, associates four. Secretary, J. W. Barry, 21 Beech Road, Horfield, Bristol.

BUCKHURST HILL AND WOODFORD.—Held public meetings, and correspondence carried on in local press. Members 24, associate one. Secretary, G. H. Ellis, 2 Limetree Villas, Princes Road, Buckhurst Hill.

BURNLEY.—Carried on a vigorous newspaper correspondence. Working on behalf of the proposals of the Minority Report of the Poor Law Commission. Members 21. Secretary, Robert Chambers, 147 Brunshaw Road, Burnley.

BUTE.—Secretary, Thomas Smythe Paterson, Mount Park Studio, Port Bannatyne.

CARDIFF.—Secretary, A. E. Shippobotham, 53 Queen Street, Cardiff.

CARNARVON.—Secretary, I. R. Jones, Idan House, Constantine Road, Carnarvon.

CHELMSFORD.—Members include a rural district councillor and poor law guardian. Holds periodical meetings. Members 13. Secretary, W. G. Smith, Galley Hall, Galleywood, Chelmsford.

COVENTRY.—Secretary, Rev. P. E. T. Widdrington, St. Peter's Vicarage, Coventry.

CROYDON.—Organized two courses of lectures. Published Tract on School Feeding. Discussion meetings held. Members 65, associates 14. Secretary, H. A. Oakeshott, Downside, Coulsdon, Surrey.

DARWEN.—Carried on press propaganda, debates and public meetings. Members 12. Secretary, F. B. Walkden, 5 Pearson Street, Darwen.

EDINBURGH.—Formed February, 1909. Secretary, Jas. G. Glen, M.A., 19 Downie Terrace, Murrayfield, Midlothian.

GLASGOW.—The local lecture list issued to several hundred church and literary societies, I.L.P., and trade union branches. About 100 lectures given by local lecturers. Two series of meetings organized in conjunction with parent Society. Press Committee

contributed articles to local papers. Members 85, associates six. One town councillor, one parish councillor, one school board member on roll. Secretary, D. Berry, 4 Newlands Park, Newlands, Glasgow.

HARROW (F.G.)—Formed July, 1908. Meets monthly for discussion. Held course of lectures. Members 18, associates nine. Secretary, Cosmo Rowe, 71 Mason's Avenue, Harrow.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Formed December, 1908. Meetings held dealing with local government. Members 14. Secretary, H. Shaw, 25 Newsome Road, Huddersfield.

HULL.—Secretary, E. V. Teesdale, 188 Park Avenue, Hull.

ILFORD.—Formed April, 1908. Lecture course organized. Lectures given by members to other bodies. Press propaganda carried on. Members 38. Secretary, F. Bowman, 83 Woodlands Road, Ilford.

LEEDS AND COUNTY.—Secretary, P. Hammill Baldwinson, 15 Winnie Terrace, New Wortley.

LEICESTER.—Formed June, 1908. Secretary, H. J. B. Craven, Kelmescott, Wigston Fields, Leicester.

LETCHWORTH.—Held course of lectures, a debate, and public meetings, besides members' meetings, garden party, soirée, reading circles, etc. Working on Minority Report. Issued a manifesto on Socialism. Members 115, including one member of rural district council and one parish councillor. Secretary, W. J. Brooks, Westholm, Letchworth.

LIVERPOOL.—Activities too numerous to mention. Society publishes this year a sixteen page report showing that "numbers, finances and zeal of the society are now stronger than at any previous period in its history." Members 140, associates three. Secretary, A. Reeves, 316 Derby Road, Bootle.

LLANDUDNO.—Formed March, 1909. Secretary, F. W. Knowles, Borthyn, Victoria Avenue, Llandudno.

MANCHESTER.—Members' meeting held weekly. Members have given about 100 lectures to other bodies. Carried on press propaganda. Committee on Poor Law Reform at work. Members 107. Two city councillors, one district councillor and one poor law guardian on roll.

MARLBOROUGH.—Formed May, 1908. Held open-air and indoor meetings usually once a month. Members 11. Secretary, S. F. Goodchild, Meggen, Marlborough.

PALMERS GREEN AND DISTRICT.—Formed October, 1908. Held course of lectures and public meetings. Local clergy circularised. Press propaganda. Members 28, including one district councillor. Secretary, F. A. Browne, 38 Meadowcroft Road, Palmers Green, N.

PERTH.—Secretary, Thomas T. Watson, Karpoma, Craigend, Perth.

READING.—Formed November, 1908. Holds meetings monthly. Members 29, associates six. Secretary, Miss Mabel E. Lawrence, 58 Donnington Road, Reading.

SHEFFIELD.—Held meetings both in and outside Sheffield. Press propaganda. Members 89, associates two. One city councillor and one elective auditor on roll. Secretary, I. H. Bingham, 9 Melbourne Road, Sheffield.

SOUTHPORT.—Held open-air meetings in Southport and surrounding district. Lectures given by members to other societies. Members 37, associates two. Secretary, John H. Goulding, jnr., 38 Chestnut Street, Southport.

SWANSEA (F.G.)—Secretary, Paul Cocks, 7 Mirador Crescent, Swansea.

WALSALL.—Formed November, 1908. Meetings held twice monthly. Press propaganda. Course of lectures held. Members 23, associate one. Secretary, W. G. Hill, 65 Wednesbury Road, Walsall.

YORK.—Formed May, 1908. Outdoor meetings held. Course of lectures and big meeting organized. Members 30. Secretary, E. Lionel Cook, Clifton Manor, York.

UNIVERSITY FABIAN SOCIETIES.

CAMBRIDGE.—Assisted investigations into condition of labor in Cambridge for Minority Report. Held a series of public meetings. Members 90, associates 138. Secretary, G. H. S. Pinsent, Trinity College.

EDINBURGH.—Secretary, F. W. Wallace, University Union, Edinburgh.

GLASGOW.—Supported candidature of J. Keir Hardie, M.P., for Rectorship. Held lectures and debates. Held conference with Edinburgh U.F.S. Members 60, associates 14. Secretary, Wm. L. McKinlay, Ellenbank, Montrose Street, Clydebanks.

LONDON.—Held lectures and joint meeting with Oxford and Cambridge U. F. societies. Members 30. Secretary, V. Serebriakoff, East London College, E.

MANCHESTER.—Formed January, 1909. Secretaries, Miss Mary Benson, 13 Bates Street, Longsight; J. H. Doughty, "Dawlish," Victoria Park, Manchester.

OXFORD.—Held lectures and debate. Members 84, associates 67. Secretary, F. K. Griffith, Balliol College. Secretary of Women's Group, Miss J. M. Upcott, Somerville College.

LONDON GROUPS.

CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Secretary, Miss Agnes F. Dodd, 3 Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C.

CLAPHAM AND DISTRICT (F.S.).—Secretary, Miss M. Murby, 135 Ramsden Road, Balham, S.W.

DULWICH.—Secretary, St. John G. Ervine, 13 Champion Park, S.E.

FOREST GATE.—Secretary, Mrs. Whitwell, 36 Upton Avenue, Forest Gate, E.

HAMPSTEAD.—Secretary, T. Barratt, 110 Heath Street, Hampstead.

KENSINGTON AND DISTRICT.—Secretary, E. d'Auvergne, 2 Margaretta Terrace, Chelsea, S.W.

LEWISHAM AND DISTRICT.—Secretary, Laurence E. V. Tiffen, 51 Sprules Road, Brockley.

MARYLEBONE AND PADDINGTON.—Secretary, Miss C. L. Hayland, 200 Wymering Mansions, Elgin Avenue, W.

ST. PANCRAS.—Secretary, C. Game, 8 Primrose Hill Studios, N.W.

SIDCUP AND DISTRICT.—Secretary, Miss Rose Gardner, 21 Granville Road, Sidcup.

SOUTHWARK.—Secretary, F. Keeling, 57 Liverpool Street, Walworth.

SUBJECT GROUPS.

ARTS.—Acting Secretary, T. Wilson, 30 Red Lion Square, W.C.

BIOLOGY GROUP.—Secretary, Dr. Lionel Tayler, 8 Adys Lawn, St. Paul's Avenue, Willesden Green, N.W.

EDUCATION GROUP.—Secretary, Mrs. P. M. Crosthwaite, Uplands, Frog Hole, Westerham, Kent.

FABIAN NURSERY.—Secretary, Miss Rosamund Bland, Well Hall, Eltham, Kent.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—Secretary (pro tem.), G. R. Blanco White, 331 Upper Richmond Road, S.W.

WOMEN'S GROUP.—Secretary, Mrs. Charlotte M. Wilson, 8A Hanover Court, W.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE.—Mrs. Bischof-Collins, 7 Red Lion Square, W.C.

FABIAN SOCIETY.—The Fabian Society consists of Socialists. A statement of its Rules and the following publications can be obtained from the Secretary, at the Fabian Office, 3 Clement's Inn, London, W.C.

THIS MISERY OF BOOTS. By H. G. WELLS. 3d., post free 4d.
"THOSE WRETCHED RATES!" a Dialogue. By F. W. HAYES. 1d.

TRACT INDEX AND CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ. 3d.

FABIAN ESSAYS IN SOCIALISM. New Preface by BERNARD SHAW
Paper 6d. net; cloth 1/6; postage 2½d. and 4d.

FABIAN TRACTS and LEAFLETS.

Tracts, each 16 to 52 pp., price 1d., or 9d. per doz., unless otherwise stated.

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II.—Applications of Socialism to Particular Problems.

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III.—Local Government Powers: How to use them.

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